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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15273 091628Z

51
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /014 W
---------- 057692
O 091548Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3261
INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC UR
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATION: JOFFREY BALLET

SECSTATE FOR CU/CP
AGENCY FOR IEE

REF: A) CARSTONES/MOXHAY TELECON OCT. 4 B) STATE 219525

1. WE BELIEVE GOSKONTSERT HAS MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT AT ITS LEVEL TO WORK OUT A FOURTH CITY FOR JOFFREY TOUR. THEY HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY AND THROUGH THE MINISTRY THAT THEY CAN FIND NO SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION AND HALLS FOR A FOURTH CITY.

2. WE ARE LESS SURE ABOUT MINCULT'S EFFORTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE COUCHED THEIR FINAL NOTIFICATION TO US TODAY (BUTROVA TO NALLE) IN TERMS OF "THE WAY OUR BOLSHOI HAS TO DO IN YOUR COUNTRY." THAT IS, THEY WILL ARRANGE A FOURTH CITY, PROBABLY KIEV IN THE UKRAINA PALACE OR IN A CONCERT HALL IN MINSK, FOR WHAT THEY CALL "GALA PERFORMANCES" BY JOFFREY, IN EFFECT PROGRAMS WITHOUT COMPANY LIGHTS OR SETS. BUTROVA STATED THAT KIEV AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN ASKED IFTHEY WOULD MOVE KIEV COMPANY OUT OF OPERA HOUSE FOR REQUI-SITE TIME AND HAD REFUSED. CRAWFORD WAS ADVISED OF THIS PROBLEM DURING HIS JULY ADVANCE VISIT TO KIEV.

3. WE ARE NOW ASKING FOR OCTOBER 10 MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER-COUNSELOR AND DEPUTY MINCULT POPOV, POINTING OUT SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARD QUESTION. FOR THIS, WE NEED TO KNOW BY OPENING
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BUSINESS OCTOBER 10 WHETHER JOFFREY WOULD CONSIDER SUCH GALA

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PERFORMANCES IN UKRAINA PALACE. WE HAVE ADVISED MINCULT WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL.

4. IF JOFFREY AND DEPT SAY NO, WE DO NOT SEE MUCH PRACTICAL HOPE FOR ACHIEVING FOURTH CITY. EMBASSY WOULD THEN RECOMMEND THAT WE RETIRE GRACEFULLY FROM FIELD OF BATTLE TRYING TO SALVAGE AS MUCH CREDIT AS POSSIBLE AGAINST ARRANGEMENTS NEXT TOUR.

5. ADVISE IMMEDIATE.

STOESSEL

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